

UAH Women's Studies

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The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Spring, 2007

Feminism Mini-Conference Features *Manifesta* Authors

Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, authors of *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future*, will give a public lecture at UAH in conjunction with the Third Wave Feminism Mini-Conference on March 26-28. The pair, who decided in 1997 to "collaborate on a book about our generation of feminism," has set the tone for the contemporary women's movement.

On Wednesday, March 28, the authors will lecture to the public at 7 p.m. in Chan Auditorium. Their focus will be on remembering the history of the women's movement in order to accommodate the needs and abilities of contemporary feminists. So-called "Third Wave" feminists, Baumgardner and Richards recognize the challenges facing young women today and offer solutions to the lag and misinterpretations in the feminist movement.

Baumgardner and Richards are the highlight of a three-day set of events beginning Monday, March 26, at 6 p.m. with the oral interpretation of historical women's oratory in Morton Studio 106. Student performers will enact historical figures and share information about the originating "waves" of the women's movement.

On Tuesday, March 27, at 4 p.m., a reception in the North Campus Residence Hall activity room will showcase the activism of local women. Winners of the annual Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Paper Competition will present their work, and local



Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner will lecture on Wednesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in UAH's Chan Auditorium.

women will talk about feminism in Huntsville. Baumgardner and Richards will be guests at this event.

All week, UAH students can participate in a public blog in Morton Hall on the Women's Studies bulletin boards. Blog submissions will be accepted through the Women's Studies Resource Center and posted daily.

Planning for the mini-conference is still underway; details will be posted at <http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/events>. Events are free and open to the public, and are sponsored by the UAH Women's Studies Program, with financial support from the Humanities Center, the Office of Student Affairs, the Departments of Communication Arts and Sociology, and Sigma Tau Delta. For more information or to participate in the conference, contact Dr. Julie Ferris in Communication Arts at (256) 824-2304.

The Women's Studies Program is seeking additional funding for this event. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation please fill out the form on the back page and designate your gift for the Baumgardner/Richards event.

Eminent Scholar Vicinus to Lecture on "Free Woman" in Nineteenth- Century Britain

Feminist scholar Dr. Martha Vicinus will deliver a public lecture in the Union Grove Gallery and Meeting Hall at UAH on Wednesday, February 28, at 7 p.m. Her lecture is titled "The Late-Nineteenth Century Free Woman: Defining Sexual and Economic Freedom" and will be followed by a reception and book-signing.

Vicinus will visit classes in English, women's studies, and history and is especially interested in meeting with students. She will also give an illustrated talk on cross-dressing in the British music halls and theatre for interested students and faculty.

Vicinus' scholarship has focused on gender issues pertinent to women writers in Britain, and more recently, on issues of sexualities, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Author and editor of eight books, her most recent is *Intimate Friends: Women Who Loved Women, 1778-1928*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2004. (continued on page 2, VICINUS)



Martha Vicinus will lecture on Wednesday, February 28, at 7 p.m., in the Union Grove Gallery and Meeting Hall at UAH.

“Nurturing Women” Community Quilt Donated as Women’s Studies Fundraiser

Last summer, senior art major Jennifer Landis curated an exhibition at the Union Grove Gallery at UAH displaying a variety of art works exploring ideas of mothering and fertility. “Nurturing Women” was the title of the show and the theme of a quilt created as the centerpiece for this group exhibition. Landis has donated the quilt to the UAH Women’s Studies Program.

Over 18 artists, mothers, and women skilled in the traditional craft of quilt making worked together

for more than three months to make a quilt expressing the theme of “Nurturing Women.” Participants ranged from 12 to 54 years old. The quilt exhibits a variety of types of human representation in fabric-based art and explores women’s richly diverse experiences of mothering and fertility.



Community Quilt (full view)



Community Quilt (detail)

Landis came to UAH as an adult student experienced as a Doula, a form of midwifery, and as a Montessori teacher. As an art student, Landis wanted to find a way to meld her current life, as a mother and birth attendant, with her academic life. “I

brainstormed with Kristy From-Brown, another creative mom, about organizing an art show about mothering. The idea blossomed from there,” Landis said. Making the quilt communally was an integral part of the theme of nurturing women.

The quilt will be awarded as a fundraiser prize during the Third Wave Feminism Mini-Conference, March 26-28. (You need not be present to win.) Tickets for the artwork are available at the Women’s Studies Program offices in Morton Hall (Rooms 344 and 254) or at any of the scheduled Women’s Studies events in February and March. The suggested donation is five dollars per ticket or three tickets for ten dollars. Color posters displaying the quilt will be posted on campus, and the work itself may be viewed at Women’s Studies spring events.

For more information about the quilt, call (256) 824-6210, or contact Jennifer Landis at jblandis100@aol.com.

Huntsville Feminist Chorus to Perform Annual Spring Concert at UAH

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Huntsville Feminist Chorus will give its 11th annual Spring Concert on Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m., in UAH’s Roberts Recital Hall. This popular *a cappella* group is known regionally for performing songs that uplift and empower women. Drumming is a prominent feature of these powerful performances.

Admission to the concert is free. Commemorative color posters will be available for purchase. The concert is sponsored by the UAH Women’s Studies Program. For more information, call (256) 824-6210.



(Top) The chorus at its 2006 Solstice Concert; (Left) Huntsville Feminist Chorus commemorative poster.

VICINUS continued from page 1

Vicinus has begun a new project on American women who “migrated” to Britain in the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her research is fascinating, and she is a warm and engaging personality eager to share it.

Dr. Vicinus’ lecture is free and open to the public. Her visit is sponsored by the UAH English Department, with financial support from the Humanities Center, Women’s Studies Program, and the Department of History. For further information, contact Dr. Julie Early in the English Department (earlyj@email.uah.edu).

Women’s Studies Program

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<http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/>

Dr. Nancy Finley, Director
Dr. Rose Norman, Acting Director (Spring 2007)
Erin Reid, Newsletter Editor

V-Day Huntsville & V-Day UAH Join Global Effort to Stop Violence Against Women and Girls

V-Day Huntsville will present Eve Ensler's award-winning play, *The Vagina Monologues*, at The Flying Monkey Arts Center at Lowe Mill on February 10 at 7 p.m. and February 11 at 2 p.m. On February 14, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m., V-Day UAH will present *The Vagina Monologues* on the UAH campus at Chan Auditorium in the Administrative Science Building. Proceeds from these community events will be donated to the Madison County Community Free Clinic.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "funny" and "poignant" and by the *Daily News* as "intelligent" and "courageous," *The Vagina Monologues*, which was first performed off-Broadway by Ensler, dives into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage, and excitement buried in women's experiences. Ensler has performed the play to great acclaim throughout the world.

Huntsville's benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* is part of the V-Day 2007 Worldwide and College Campaigns. Last year over 1,150 communities and colleges hosted V-Day benefits around the world, raising funds and awareness to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation, and sexual slavery. V-Day's 2007 theme, "Reclaiming Peace," seeks to make a connection between the

worldwide anti-violence work of thousands of V-Day activists with a collective desire for peace and an end to armed conflicts. Thousands of V-Day 2007 productions are anticipated worldwide in which local volunteers and college students produce benefit performances of the play to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

In 90 countries, V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In eight years, V-Day has raised over \$40 million. V-Day stages large-scale benefits and produces innovative gatherings, films, and campaigns to educate and change social attitudes.

Tickets for *The Vagina*

Monologues are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and may be reserved by emailing vdayhsv@yahoo.com or by leaving a message with the name and number of tickets at (256) 895-4688. To learn more about local V-Day events, call (256) 508-1714, email vdayhsv@yahoo.com or visit the event website at <http://vdayhsv.blogspot.com>. To learn more about V-Day, the V-Day Worldwide Campaign, and the V-Day College Campaign, visit www.vday.org.



UAH Theatre Presents Two Powerful Plays about Women

UAH Theatre presents in Morton Hall Studio 106

Crimes of the Heart

by Beth Henley

"A bittersweet southern comedy"

February 22 @ 5:30pm
 February 23 - 24 @ 7:00pm
 February 25 @ 2:00pm
 February 28 & March 1 @ 5:30pm
 March 2 - 3 @ 7:00pm

Students: \$5.00 Adults: \$10.00
 *Call 824-6871 for tickets or buy them at the UC
 for more info: www.uah.edu/theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

UAH Theatre presents in Chan Auditorium

Mother Courage and her Children

by Bertolt Brecht

April 18 - 19 @ 5:30pm
 April 20 - 21 @ 7:00pm
 April 22 @ 2:00pm

Students: \$5.00 Adults: \$10.00
 *Call 824-6909 for tickets or buy them at the UC
 for more info: www.uah.edu/theatre

For more information on UAH Theatre's 2007 schedule, contact David Harwell in the Department of Communication Arts at (256) 824-6909 or via email at harweld@uah.edu.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

10	7 p.m.	<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> , V-Day, The Flying Monkey Arts Center
11	2 p.m.	<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> , V-Day, The Flying Monkey Arts Center
14, 16, 17	7:30 p.m.	<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> , V-Day, Chan Auditorium, UAH
22	5:30 p.m.	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> , UAH Theatre, Morton Studio 106, UAH
23, 24	7:00 p.m.	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> , UAH Theatre, Morton Studio 106, UAH
25	2:00 p.m.	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> , UAH Theatre, Morton Studio 106, UAH
28	5:30 p.m.	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> , UAH Theatre, Morton Studio 106, UAH
28	7:00 p.m.	Dr. Martha Vicinus , Lecture, Roberts Recital Hall, UAH

MARCH

1	5:30 p.m.	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> , UAH Theatre, Morton Studio 106, UAH
1	11:10 a.m.	Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch , Great Room, North Campus Residence Hall, UAH
1	7:00 p.m.	Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch , Roberts Recital Hall, UAH
2, 3	7:00 p.m.	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> , UAH Theatre, Morton Studio 106, UAH
10	7:30 p.m.	Huntsville Feminist Chorus Spring Concert , Roberts Recital Hall, UAH
26	6 p.m.	Third Wave Feminism Mini-Conference: Women's Oratory , Morton Hall Studio 106, UAH
27	4 p.m.	Third Wave Feminism Mini-Conference: Authors' Reception , North Campus Residence Hall Activity Room, UAH
28	7:00 p.m.	Third Wave Feminism Mini-Conference: Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner , Lecture, Chan Auditorium, UAH

APRIL

18, 19	5:30 p.m.	<i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i> , UAH Theatre, Chan Auditorium, UAH
20, 21	7:00 p.m.	<i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i> , UAH Theatre, Chan Auditorium, UAH
22	2:00 p.m.	<i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i> , UAH Theatre, Chan Auditorium, UAH

For more information, see event details in this newsletter or contact the UAH Women's Studies Program at (256) 824-6210.

Exciting New Summer Courses Proposed for Women's Studies Minor

Three new courses are now being proposed for inclusion in the Women's Studies summer 2007 schedule. Students may check the status of these courses by contacting the Women's Studies staff assistant Erin Reid (reide@uah.edu), or Acting Director of Women's Studies, Rose Norman (normanr@uah.edu).

EH 440/540 Special Studies: Utopian/Dystopian Literature

First mini-session MTWR 12:30-2:30

Dr. Jill Onega

Twenty percent of this upper-level English course will be devoted to feminist utopias and dystopias. Among the authors studied either fully or in brief are Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Marge Piercy, Ursula Le Guin, Octavia Butler, and Margaret Atwood. Additionally, much utopian literature lends itself to discussion of gender issues and concerns.

EH 440/540 Special Studies: Stein and Hemingway

Second mini-session MTWR 12:30-2:30

Dr. Laurel Bollinger

Dr. Bollinger writes: "In many respects, Gertrude Stein and Ernest Hemingway could not be more different: Stein's life-long partnership with Alice Toklas sharply contrasts with Hemingway's hyper-masculinity and multiple wives; Stein's experimental use of language focuses on words and sentences rather than story, while Hemingway's stylistic innovations are always firmly in the service of narrative. Yet both writers participated in the literary world of Paris in the 1920s, and both carried on a multi-decade feud kept safely between the pages of their respective autobiographies. Both claimed to have influenced the other profoundly, and in this course, we'll consider those claims through careful exploration of the stories they each wrote. We'll consider how both writers participated in the intellectual and social climate of the 1920s, and how each simultaneously challenged and embraced traditional definitions of gender—through style, and through the stories they chose to tell."

CM 340-02 Special Topics: Rap Communication and Hip Hop Culture

Second mini-session MTWR 12:30-2:30

Sonja Brown-Givens

Few elements of contemporary society are as notorious for blatant sexism as rap music. Dr. Brown-Givens' course will introduce students to the general history of rap music, explore connections between rap music and other elements of hip hop culture, and challenge students to think critically about rap music and its place in American society as a vehicle to express social, political, and other significant concerns. Drawing on secondary articles by rap critics and scholars, students will consider such controversial subjects as censorship, sexism, obscenity, and race politics in America as they relate to rap music & hip-hop culture.

Kathleen Kennedy Teaches “Sex, Violence, and the Law in Literature”

Having earned two degrees in history, at University of Illinois and University of Minnesota, Kathleen Kennedy completed her Ph.D. in English at The Ohio State University. She proceeded to teach English at University of Oklahoma, and has settled comfortably at UAH, in a state where the football colors continue to include red and white.



Kathleen Kennedy

Back in her former life as a history major, Kathleen Kennedy was often asked, “so, you do women’s history, right?” Bristling slightly at the assumption that a female historian would of necessity be a historian of women’s history, she corrected people with “well, maybe, women did take part in crime, right along with men.” Now, as an English professor, no

one assumes that she concentrates on women’s literature, and yet, it was only with her move into English departments that Kennedy began to explore important links between depictions of women in literature and discussions of crime and the law. These days, her old disavowal, “women did take part in crime,” has become an affirmation of women’s crucial role in literary debates about social institutions.

Both the courses Kennedy teaches at UAH and her research focus not only on women and femininity, but also on how the construction of womanhood informs the construction of manhood. This spring, Kennedy’s special studies course, “Criminal Entertainments: Sex, Violence, and the Law in Literature,” explores how violent women, and violence against women, are particularly hot cultural topics, and show up repeatedly not only in literature, but also in documentary sources like newspapers and legal texts. In portraying women as violent or victimized, authors permit themselves to criticize social institutions that may trap both women and men into limiting roles. In fact, this use of female characters as a way to analogously, and safely, criticize powerful social institutions, is a central element of the book Kennedy is writing, *Lordship and Limited Agency in Medieval English Literature*. (She wanted the title to be *Married to the Mob in MEL*, but her editor wouldn’t allow it.)

Women’s Studies Course Offerings

Summer 2007

ARH 309	Contemporary Art and Issues (1 st mini-session)	MTWR	2:45-4:45	Stewart
NUR 425	Human Sexuality (2 nd mini-session)	M	8:00-6:15	Steff
PHL 202-02	Introduction to Ethics (2 nd mini-session)	MTWR	5:00-7:00	Bednar
PHL 202-03	Introduction to Ethics (2 nd mini-session)	MTWR	12:30-2:30	Bednar
PY 437	Psychobiology of Stress and Illness (2 nd mini-session)	MTWR	10:15-12:15	Torres
SOC 106	Marriage and Family (2 nd mini-session)	MTWR	12:30-14:30	Finley
SOC 435	Sociology of Social Movements (1 st mini-session)	MTWR	12:30-2:30	Berbrier

Fall 2007

CM 330	Nonverbal Communication	TR	12:45-2:05	Brown-Givens
EH 403	Literary Criticism and Theory	TR	3:55-5:15	Neff
MGT 462	Employment Law for Managers	MW	12:45-2:05	Gramm
PHL 202-01	Introduction to Ethics	MWF	11:30-12:25	Martine
PHL 202-03	Introduction to Ethics	TR	11:10-12:30	Wilkerson
PHL 202-04	Introduction to Ethics	TR	2:20-3:40	Heikes
PHL 202-05	Introduction to Ethics	TR	3:55-5:15	Staff
PHL 303	Contemporary Philosophy	TR	12:45-2:05	Cling
PHL 335	Feminist Philosophy	MW	3:55-5:15	Heikes
SOC 106	Marriage and Family	TR	11:10-12:30	Finley
SOC 200	Introduction to Anthropology	MW	12:45-2:05	Sitaraman
SOC 315	Cultural Change	T	3:55-6:50	Sitaraman
WS 200	Introduction to Women’s Studies	TR	2:20-3:40	Finley

For more information, visit <http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies>

For possible course time changes, see the official UAH schedule of classes: <http://www.uah.edu/cgi-bin/schedule.pl>

Become a Friend of Women's Studies!

Friends of Women's Studies (FWS) is an organization of people who support the UAH Women's Studies program.

The goals of FWS include

- supporting community involvement in Women's Studies events
- sponsoring cultural activities and events that honor and empower women
- supporting women scholars, artists, and performers
- fostering discussion of issues affecting women's lives

Annual Contribution (October 1 – September 30)

\$10-24 Individual \$25-49 Family \$50-99 Matron \$100-249 Sponsor
 \$250-\$499 Sustaining \$500 Lifetime Contributor \$1000 Benefactor

I would like to contribute to the Travel Scholarship Fund \$ _____
 I would like to contribute to Baumgardner/Richards Fund for 2007 \$ _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____
Mailing Address _____
_____ Email _____

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